



**Statement of Ireland**  
**37<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group**

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Review of Lebanon

**18 January 2021**

Ireland thanks Lebanon for its presentation today.

Ireland acknowledges the enormous challenges faced by Lebanon, including the Beirut port explosion, the spread of COVID-19, and a severe economic crisis.

We commend the efforts made in addressing recommendations from the last UPR cycle.

The update to the Penal code in 2017 to criminalise torture is welcome. However, the code and its implementation still fall short of international norms. Ireland is also concerned about an increase in prosecutions for free speech since 2015. Ireland therefore makes the following recommendations to the Lebanese authorities:

1. Adopt a comprehensive anti-torture law in full compliance with the UN Convention Against Torture, eliminating statutes of limitation, providing a comprehensive definition of torture, and ending the practice of military courts having jurisdiction over some civilian cases.
2. Decriminalise blasphemy, and fully decriminalise defamation, including insult and criticism of public officials.

We wish Lebanon every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.